



2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In its 29th year the State Coastal Conservancy provided new support for more than **120 projects** along California's coast and around San Francisco Bay, protecting natural lands, improving wildlife habitat, supporting local economies, and helping people enjoy the coast. The Conservancy worked with coastal communities on the purchase of more than **4,300 acres** of land for public recreation and to protect natural and scenic properties. The Conservancy also helped to protect almost **1,400 acres** of farmland and forested properties through the purchase of conservation easements, allowing continued economic use of land by private owners. All acquisitions were from willing sellers.

The **\$68 million** provided by the Conservancy in 2005 was leveraged by **\$75 million** of non-State funding from the federal and local governments and private sources. The great majority of the Conservancy's funding came from resources bond acts approved by the State's voters in 2000 and 2002.

To do its work, the Conservancy has long relied on partnerships with **local communities** and over **100 nonprofit organizations** based in all parts of the coast and around San Francisco Bay. This network ensures that local residents inform the Conservancy about coastal needs and opportunities and are actively involved in the Conservancy's work.

Along the length of the coast the Conservancy

- greatly expanded its efforts to protect California's **ocean waters**. The Conservancy made \$5 million available for work of the California Ocean Protection Council and provided \$2 million for ocean research grants, sustainable fisheries programs, and the upcoming California and the World Ocean Conference.
- made good progress on its goal to see the **California Coastal Trail** run unbroken along the entire coastline. The Conservancy formed a partnership with California State Parks and the California Conservation Corps to build and improve the trail on State Parks properties and provided \$1 million for that work. The Conservancy also supported building or improving segments of the trail in more than a dozen areas, from San Clemente to Crescent City, and approved the design of an emblem for the trail. Almost half of the planned 1,200-mile trail is now in place.
- provided \$4.5 million to help salmon and steelhead reach spawning grounds by removing **barriers to fish migration** in 16 coastal and Bay Area rivers and creeks, plus \$3.1 million to improve fish and wildlife habitat along an additional nine creeks.

Selected Projects, 2005: South Coast

*Along the **length of the South Coast** the Conservancy*

- continued its management and financial support of the **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**, a partnership of state and federal agencies working with scientists, local governments, conservation organizations, businesses, and educators. The Project is restoring a mosaic of healthy rivers, streams, and marshes from San Diego to Santa Barbara.

*In **San Diego County** the Conservancy*

- provided the City of San Diego with \$100,000 for **beach accessibility improvements**, including continuation of the City's Power Beach Chairs program and the expanded use of portable beach wheelchair ramps.
- contributed \$177,000 to the construction of the **Coast to Crest Trail**, a multi-use trail system that will connect inland areas in north San Diego County to the coast near Del Mar.
- provided National City with \$500,000 for **Paradise Creek Educational Park**, with the funding to be used for construction of an outdoor learning lab, boardwalk, and creekside trail, and restoration of wetlands along the creek.
- provided Chula Vista with \$350,000 for construction of a new environmental education exhibit at the **Chula Vista Nature Center** focused on the endangered green sea turtle, which is native to San Diego Bay.
- provided \$150,000 for research to identify needs and opportunities for restoring the environment of the **Rose Creek watershed** that extends from Poway to Mission Bay in the City of San Diego.
- provided \$100,000 to the Maritime Museum of San Diego to host a **Tall Ships Exposition Festival** held in the summer of 2005.

*In **Orange County** the Conservancy*

- granted San Clemente \$500,000 to construct the three-mile **San Clemente Coastal Trail** and wheelchair-accessible connecting trails to the beach.
- provided Laguna Niguel with \$287,000 for the restoration of 1½ miles of **Upper Sulphur Creek** to improve flood protection, water quality, and native wildlife habitat.
- provided the Laguna Canyon Foundation with \$295,000 for educational exhibits at the James and Rosemary Nix Nature Center in **Laguna Coast Wilderness Park**.

Coastal Conservancy 2005 Accomplishments

*In **Los Angeles County** the Conservancy*

- contributed \$10.5 million toward the Mountain Recreation Authority's acquisition of the 564-acre **SOKA Property** in the upper watershed of Malibu Creek. The purchase protected critical wildlife habitat and offers outstanding recreational opportunities in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains.
- provided Rancho Palos Verdes with \$1.6 million to acquire the Portuguese Bend and Agua Amarga Canyon properties, a total of about 463 acres, to protect wildlife habitat on the **Palos Verdes Peninsula**. The properties are adjacent to other protected habitat areas and will contain portions of a 20-mile trail network linked to the California Coastal Trail.
- provided \$1.8 million to the Los Angeles Harbor/Watts Economic Development Corporation to link the communities of San Pedro, Wilmington, and Harbor City to the waterfront areas of the **Port of Los Angeles**. The funding will be used to improve public access to one of Southern California's last underdeveloped visitor-commercial and recreational waterfronts and create a new section of the California Coastal Trail.
- granted \$200,000 to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to complete design plans for wetlands creation at the DeForest Basin along the **Los Angeles River** in Long Beach. This project continues the Conservancy's long-term participation in the effort to revitalize the LA River and create a recreational and natural greenway running from the mountains to the sea.
- continued its lead role in planning for restoration of the **Ballona Wetlands** and provided \$500,000 for environmental studies.
- provided \$300,000 for planning and identification of restoration projects in the **Compton Creek watershed**. The creek flows through a highly urbanized area and has the potential to become a significant recreational and environmental amenity for the community.
- provided \$380,000 to remove fish passage barriers and restore habitat for southern steelhead trout and other wildlife in Malibu's **Solstice and Topanga creeks**.
- provided \$100,000 for the protection of **Catalina Island** habitats from the spread of invasive plants.
- provided \$70,000 for site designs necessary to develop public **coastal accessways in Malibu**.
- provided the **Aquarium of the Pacific** in Long Beach with \$80,000 for development of the Watershed Project, an environmental education exhibit.
- granted \$100,000 to the Los Angeles Maritime Institute to host a **Tall Ships Exposition Festival** held in the summer of 2005 at the Port of Los Angeles.

Coastal Conservancy 2005 Accomplishments

*In **Ventura County** the Conservancy*

- funded The Nature Conservancy's \$13 million acquisition of 276 acres at **Ormond Beach** for restoration of wetlands and other wildlife habitat. The property is adjacent to 265 acres that the Conservancy purchased for restoration in 2002 and other neighboring properties that are being considered for restoration.
- provided \$1 million to prepare engineering designs for removal of the **Matilija Dam** on a tributary of the Ventura River. Removal of the dam would make several miles of spawning habitat available to the endangered southern steelhead trout, restore habitat for other wildlife, and allow sediment to pass through the river to rebuild ocean beaches.
- provided \$765,000 to support remotely operated vehicle surveys within the **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**. The surveys monitor habitat conditions in the sanctuary and identify how fish and other marine wildlife are responding to recently enacted protections.
- granted \$150,000 to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a species recovery and access management program for the **Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern** on publicly owned beaches.

Selected Projects, 2005: Central Coast

In Santa Barbara County the Conservancy

- granted the County \$300,000 for the acquisition of three vacant blufftop parcels on Del Playa Drive in **Isla Vista** for a park that will offer spectacular panoramic views of the ocean. The Conservancy also provided the County with \$150,000 to reconstruct three public beach accessways in the City that have frequently washed out during major storms.
- provided \$510,000 for removal of migration barriers and improving fish habitat along **Carpinteria Creek** to restore the population of endangered steelhead trout. The creek's watershed may offer the best opportunity in the region for restoring a significant steelhead run.

In San Luis Obispo County the Conservancy

- provided the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County with \$645,000 for its acquisition and restoration of the 13-acre Rossi property in lower **Black Lake Canyon** at the edge of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. The purchase protected freshwater marshland and other wildlife habitat from development
- provided \$400,000 to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County for its acquisition and restoration of an 18-acre portion of the **Argano Ranch** along San Luis Obispo Creek. The property contains steelhead trout habitat, 15 acres of farmland, and a link in the planned City to the Sea Trail.
- provided the Trust for Public Land with \$190,000 for its option to purchase the 20-acre **Piedras Blancas** resort property and its management of public access to two sandy beaches, trails, and a parking area at the site. The property contains one-half mile of shoreline in the midst of the extensive Hearst Ranch properties that the State acquired in 2004.
- provided San Luis Obispo County with \$150,000 to reconstruct five stairways to **Cayucos State Beach**.
- provided \$120,000 for marine education displays in the **Avila Beach Marine Research and Education Center**.

In Monterey County the Conservancy

- contributed \$100,000 to the restoration of the **Garrapata Creek** watershed in Big Sur. The restoration is targeting 14 miles of roads whose erosion of sediments into the creek has severely damaged habitat for steelhead trout.

Coastal Conservancy 2005 Accomplishments

*In **Santa Cruz County** the Conservancy*

- provided the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission with a no-interest loan of \$10 million for its acquisition of 32 miles of railroad right-of-way known as the **Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line**. The right-of-way is slated for use as a public pedestrian and bicycle trail and as a segment of the California Coastal Trail.
- provided the nonprofit organization Agri-Culture with \$2 million for its acquisition of the 94-acre agricultural portion of the **Sand Hill Bluff** property on the North County coast. Agri-Culture will lease and eventually sell the property as farmland. As part of the transaction, the coastal portions of the property became part of California State Parks.
- contributed \$125,000 toward construction of the **Wetlands Educational Resource Center** at Pajaro Valley High School near the Watsonville Slough system.

*On the **Coastside of San Mateo County** the Conservancy*

- provided the **City of Pacifica** with \$250,000 for its purchase of a 2.2-acre blufftop property on Esplanade Drive for open space, natural resource protection, and public access, plus \$350,000 to design and construct beach and blufftop trails and a park on a nearby property.
- contributed \$2.2 million toward the Peninsula Open Space Trust's costs of acquiring the **San Gregorio Farms** property south of Half Moon Bay. The property contains habitat for several threatened and endangered species and may one day become part of the State Parks system.
- contributed \$350,000 toward construction of the **Año Nuevo Marine Education Center** at Año Nuevo State Reserve.
- provided \$120,000 for construction of a well to allow removal of a diversion dam that is a barrier to steelhead migration on **Pescadero Creek** in Memorial County Park, and \$20,000 to investigate and prioritize the removal of remaining fish barriers on public and private lands in the area.

Selected Projects, 2005: SF Bay Area

Around and within San Francisco Bay the Conservancy

- made \$400,000 available to extend and improve the **San Francisco Bay Trail** and approved Bay Trail projects in San Francisco and San Mateo. Since 1999 the Conservancy has provided over \$14 million for the Bay Trail and approved over 60 Bay Trail projects in all nine Bay Area counties. About 240 miles—well over half—of the planned trail is now in place.
- contributed \$235,000 for construction of five miles of the **Bay Area Ridge Trail** in Sonoma County plus \$218,000 to plan for new sections of the trail in Contra Costa, Solano, and Sonoma counties. The Conservancy has helped fund 77 miles of additions to the trail, which now runs for more than 250 miles and will one day encircle the ridgelines around San Francisco Bay.
- provided \$2.5 million for the ongoing effort to stem the spread of **invasive *Spartina***, a type of fast-growing cordgrass that presents a serious danger to native wildlife habitat. The funds are being used to eradicate the weed on 16 San Francisco Bay sites and for research on eradication techniques.
- provided Save-the-Bay with \$100,000 to carry out six community-based **wetlands restoration projects** around San Francisco Bay.
- provided \$100,000 for production of a **television documentary** about San Francisco Bay.

In San Francisco the Conservancy

- made \$250,000 available to the Port of San Francisco for improvements and additions to the San Francisco Bay Trail on the **Illinois Street Bridge** over Islais Creek.
- provided the Port of San Francisco with \$133,000 to restore and enhance six acres of tidal wetlands at **Pier 94**.
- granted \$100,000 to Sail San Francisco to host a **Tall Ships Exposition Festival** held in the summer of 2005 at the Port of San Francisco.

Along the Bayside of San Mateo County the Conservancy

- provided the City of San Mateo with \$540,000 to construct the **Bay Marshes Trail** in Shoreline Park. The trail will be a 335-foot boardwalk from the San Francisco Bay Trail over a restored wetland to an observation platform above the marshland.

*In the **South Bay** the Conservancy*

- made \$3 million available for the continuing restoration of the 15,000-acre **South Bay Salt Ponds** purchased by the State and federal governments in early 2003. The Conservancy is leading the planning effort for the restoration, the largest of its kind on the West Coast. Teams of scientists and engineers assembled by the Conservancy and its public and private partners are advising the many government agencies responsible for the project.

*In **Santa Clara County** the Conservancy*

- provided Palo Alto with \$1 million for its purchase of the 13-acre **Arastradero Preserve Gateway Parcel** for the protection and restoration of wildlife habitat and to improve public access within the Enid Pearson-Arastradero Preserve and adjacent Foothills Park.

*In **Alameda County** the Conservancy*

- provided Albany with \$815,000 to restore about one-third mile of **Codornices Creek** between 5th and 8th streets in Albany and Berkeley. The restoration is part of an effort to restore one mile of the creek's habitat for rainbow and steelhead trout and other wildlife and to build a pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting the Ohlone Greenway to the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- granted \$400,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District for its purchase of 106 acres for addition to **Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park**. The purchase protects scenic views and wildlife habitat and sets the stage for greatly improved access to parklands in the Pleasanton/Dublin area.

*In **Contra Costa County** the Conservancy*

- granted \$1.1 million to the Muir Heritage Land Trust for its purchase and restoration of the 702-acre **Fernandez Ranch**, plus \$58,000 to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to plan for trails on the property. The purchase protects several types of natural lands and offers significant recreational opportunities that include a 2½-mile route for the Ridge Trail.

*In **Solano County** the Conservancy*

- provided the Solano Land Trust with \$50,000 to plan for a two-mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and four miles of community connector trails on the **Vallejo Swett Ranch**. The Conservancy was earlier a major contributor to the Land Trust's acquisition of the 3,900-acre King and Swett ranches near Vallejo, Fairfield, and Benicia.

*In **Napa County** the Conservancy*

- provided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with \$250,000 for design of the **Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project**. The 10,000-acre project site, owned by the State, contains former salt evaporation ponds and a mixture of habitats that are home to several threatened and endangered species.

*In **Bayside and Inland Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$2 million to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for purchase of the 1,740-acre **Tolay Lake Ranch** near the cities of Sonoma and Petaluma. The purchase, expected in early 2006, will protect a large area of natural lands and archaeological sites threatened by development and offer significant recreational opportunities.
- provided \$235,000 to Sonoma County Regional Parks for construction of five miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on **Hood Mountain Regional Park**, and \$110,000 to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to plan for a new five-mile segment of the trail on the north slope of **Sonoma Mountain**.
- provided \$200,000 for planning and restoration of two miles of riparian corridor, 10 acres of upland oak savannah, and five acres of seasonal wetlands within the **Laguna de Santa Rosa**. The Conservancy has long supported the public/private effort to restore the Laguna, which contains one of the largest freshwater wetlands in Northern California. The Laguna suffers from fragmented wildlife habitats, degraded water quality, soil erosion, and the spread of invasive species.
- provided \$757,000 to the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District for research and design of the restoration of lower **Sonoma Creek** and to facilitate public participation in the effort. The planning is aimed at combining much-needed flood management with improved wildlife habitat.
- contributed \$200,000 for education facilities, displays, and equipment at PRBO's **San Francisco Bay Research Center** near Shollenberger Park in Petaluma.
- provided \$50,000 for the Sonoma Land Trust to develop an **invasive plant management program** for protection of native plants and animals, habitat restoration, and agricultural preservation on about 3,775 acres of natural and agricultural lands that the Land Trust owns.

*On the **Bayside of Marin County** the Conservancy*

- provided the Novato Sanitary District with \$1.3 million to relocate dechlorination facilities at the site of the **Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys Wetland Restoration Project**. The Conservancy owns the project site and is working with other government agencies and private organizations to restore over 1,000 acres of the property's wetlands.

Selected Projects, 2005: North Coast

*Along the **length of the North Coast** the Conservancy*

- provided \$270,000 for planning and design of fish-passage improvement projects within Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties through the **Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Planning Program**. The funding aims at removing barriers to the migration of salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout, and follows \$400,000 provided by the Conservancy for this purpose in 2003.
- provided \$350,000 to study the sediment deposits located behind upper Klamath River dams and to obtain additional information needed to evaluate relicensing alternatives for the **Klamath River Project**, a hydroelectric project near the California/Oregon border. The research affects recovery efforts for populations of salmon and other anadromous fish in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Siskiyou counties.

*On the **Coastside of Marin County** the Conservancy*

- continued its longstanding support for the **Marin Agricultural Land Trust** with a contribution of \$450,000 for MALT's purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the 1,125-acre **Pozzi Ranch** on Tomales Bay. The easement will permanently protect the ranch's scenic and natural resources while allowing its continued operation as a working farm. The Conservancy previously awarded \$1 million for this easement, and over the last 20 years has provided MALT with over \$6 million to protect 8,200 acres of farmland.
- provided \$225,000 for development of an enhancement plan for the Bear Valley Creek watershed in **Point Reyes National Seashore**, and \$88,000 for rehabilitation of the Seashore's Elephant Seal Overlook Trail.
- provided Marin County with \$197,000 for a **Marin Fish Passage Improvement Program** to identify barriers to fish passage and design the removal of at least seven of those barriers along Woodacre and Redwood Creeks. The objective of the program is to restore healthy populations of coho salmon and steelhead trout in Marin's coastal watersheds.
- provided \$50,000 for the design and permitting of off-stream water storage facilities for farmers adjacent to **Pine Gulch Creek**, a tributary to Bolinas Lagoon. Off-stream storage would allow increased stream flows during dry months for the benefit of steelhead trout and coho salmon.

*On the **Coastside of Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$475,000 to the County to help develop the new **Guerneville River Park** and for access improvements at **Windsor Riverfront Park**. Both parks are located on the Russian River in areas experiencing growing demand for public access facilities.
- provided the nonprofit organization LandPaths with \$300,000 for the interim operation and management of public access on a new 3,900-acre addition to **Willow Creek State Park**. LandPaths will assume the management responsibilities until California State Parks is able to staff and maintain the property.
- granted \$135,000 to the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District for projects aimed at reducing sediment delivery to **Dutch Bill Creek**, a tributary of the Russian River, to improve habitat for salmon and steelhead trout.
- provided the Sonoma Land Trust with \$40,000 to control erosion and prepare a resource management plan for the 127-acre **Estero Americano Nature Preserve**.

*In **Mendocino County** the Conservancy*

- provided Fort Bragg with \$4.2 million to acquire 35 acres of waterfront headlands on the former **Georgia-Pacific mill site**. The Conservancy has been working with the City on plans for restoration and reuse of the site, which G-P closed in 2002. The site is located in the heart of the City and contains about one-third of its total area and nearly all of its coastal waterfront.
- provided \$500,000 to Save-the-Redwoods League to acquire and transfer to California State Parks 1,240 acres for expansion of **Montgomery Woods State Reserve** and to provide watershed protection and restoration opportunities for two salmon-bearing tributaries of the South Fork Big River.
- provided \$600,000 to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to remove and replace the existing fish ladders on the north and south forks of **Caspar Creek** to improve migrations of coho salmon and steelhead trout throughout the watershed. The replacements will ensure adequate fish passage at a research station in the Jackson State Demonstration Forest where more than 40 years of study on the effects of timber harvests on water supply and quality have been conducted.
- granted \$655,000 to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to complete the decommissioning of 44 miles of abandoned logging roads in **Sinkyone Wilderness State Park**. Erosion of sediment from the roads severely degrades fisheries habitats in streams that drain to the Mattole and Eel rivers.
- provided \$140,000 for construction of a beach stairway and other access improvements at the **Westport Headlands**, about 25 miles north of Fort Bragg. The Conservancy had earlier granted the Westport Village Society over \$700,000 for the property's purchase.

Coastal Conservancy 2005 Accomplishments

- provided \$205,000 for construction of **Gualala coastal trails**, including the Bourn's Landing/Cook's Beach trail, St. Orres Creek trail, and the second phase of the Gualala Blufftop Trail.
- provided \$240,000 to the Mendocino Land Trust for design and planning necessary to develop fifteen public **coastal accessways** from Elk to Westport and to continue the Land Trust's management and operation of three existing accessways in Mendocino, Caspar, and Fort Bragg.
- provided \$67,000 for environmental reviews and permitting necessary for construction of three trails on the **InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness**.

*In **Humboldt County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$1 million for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's acquisition of a conservation easement on the 1,280-acre **Price Creek Ranch** west of Rio Dell. The easement will protect the property's natural habitats while allowing sustainable grazing and timber harvesting.
- provided \$255,000 to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust for its purchase of the 54-acre **Freshwater Farms** property between Eureka and Arcata. The Land Trust will restore most of the seasonally flooded property to tidal wetlands for the benefit of salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.
- contributed \$500,000 toward the Bureau of Land Management's acquisition of the six-acre **Lighthouse Ranch** at the south end of Humboldt Bay. The purchase protected a highly scenic property and provides a central hub for visitor services and management of more than 9,000 acres of public lands in the area.
- made \$790,000 available to **improve fisheries habitats** on County streams. The funding will allow the removal of barriers to fish migration on tributaries to the Mattole River, Humboldt Bay, and the Mad River, adding over five miles of spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead trout. The funding is also being used to plan for other habitat improvements and will be used to meet additional needs as opportunities are identified.
- provided \$61,000 to the Table Bluff Reservation–Wiyot Tribe to establish native saltmarsh and upland vegetation at the Tuluwat village site on **Indian Island** in Humboldt Bay.
- provided \$50,000 to the County to rehabilitate the Fairhaven 'T' access point on the **north spit of Humboldt Bay**, improving public access to the ocean.
- provided \$44,000 to augment an earlier Conservancy grant to the Yurok Tribe for preparation of a management plan to preserve public access and protect cultural and natural resources on the **Tsurai Village Site** in Trinidad. The funding will support additional cultural and environmental studies and public informational meetings.

Coastal Conservancy 2005 Accomplishments

*In **Del Norte County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$893,000 to Crescent City to purchase a 1.2-acre property and build the Harbor Trail North Segment of the **Crescent City Coastal Trail**. The Harbor Trail is designed to showcase the Crescent City waterfront and to make it easier for residents and visitors to walk or bike through the City's harbor area.
- provided the County with \$340,000 for improvements to public access and enhancement of natural resources at **Point St. George** just north of Crescent City. The Conservancy helped the County purchase the 339-acre property in 2002 and has since been working to develop public access, improve wildlife habitat, and protect archaeological resources on the property.